

May 6 2013

Ref. ----- Upcoming May 29th 2013 ORVAC Meeting

Superintendent Ramos:

I have attended all the ORVAC meeting since the Judges order to close the Bear Island ORV trails and at this point am very disappointed in the lack of progress made by the Park Service in fixing the problems.

At the May 29 2013 ORVAC meeting, I for one will be looking forward to a detailed progress report from the Park Service regarding the Bear Island ORV trail re-opening process plans and the Secondary ORV Trails situation in the Preserve. When I say detailed progress report I mean letters written, actions filed, planned actions, questions regarding judges decision etc, etc.,

The Big Cypress Sportsmen's Alliance invested over a year in the Bear Island ORV trails re-opening process and expect the Park Service to put forth a much more serious effort in adhering to the INTENT of the 1974 Preserve creation legislation. The legislation made no reference to limited miles of ORV trails. There is not now nor has there ever been any solid scientific data to justify the limited level of ORV trails that exist in the Preserve today. All ORV trail decisions made by the Park service have been arbitrary and very much influenced by the Anti Hunting groups as per the 1995 Bio-Diversity settlement agreement.

The judge only ordered the closing of those Bear Island ORV trails that were re-opened in 2006. That order had nothing to do with ORV trails in the remainder of the Preserve. It is an injustice for the Park Service to put the brakes on the entire ORV trail process in the Preserve after receiving only a notice of intent letter regarding secondary ORV trails.

The defense the Park Service brought forward during the six years of litigation on the Bear Island ORV trails re-opening law suit [which they lost] was less than stellar, as a matter of fact I heard a rumor that a person that was supposedly in the courtroom stated that the defense the Park Service put up was very lame, sounds like basic lack of motivation to me. The major goal of the Park Service [with the political influence of the anti hunting groups] has been to limit ORV trails by all means available as opposed to developing a reasonable ORV trail system as per the 1974 legislation.

The Park Service agreed in the 1995 out of court settlement agreement with the Bio-Diversity Project to establish a system of " Opening, Closing and Re-Opening Closed ORV Trails" , The Park Service has the "Opening and Closing of ORV Trails" down pat, it's now time to kick in the "Re-Opening of Closed ORV Trails" as per that 1995 settlement agreement.

Sincerely and Respectfully  
Lyle McCandless  
Pres. BCSA  
For - BCSG